

# building **BETTER LIVES**

**A Briefing Paper**

## WorkFirst Local Area Planning

**January 2005**

### **What is WorkFirst Local Area Planning?**

Local Area Planning is a forum for the development of partnerships that operate WorkFirst at the local level. Through communication, collaboration, resource sharing and continuous program improvement, the WorkFirst program has been successful in providing services that reflect local needs. Local Area Planning, part of the original WorkFirst legislation, continues to be a vital part of the program's success.

### **What are Local Area Planning partnerships?**

The 32 Local Area Planning partnerships (LPAs) are made up of representatives from local and state agencies, community and technical colleges, nonprofit organizations, tribes, contractors and other community partners that serve those most in need. The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development is the state level WorkFirst partner providing staff support and technical assistance to all local planning bodies. Each Local Planning Area is required to prepare an annual plan describing strategies it will focus on during the coming year. The plans focus partnership efforts to meet the needs of local WorkFirst families and the Governor's WorkFirst performance measures. The plans are considered works in progress and are updated throughout the year to reflect the changing needs of the program.

### **What do Local Area Planning partnerships do?**

LPAs meet monthly, throughout the year, to review their plans and performance data, discuss program issues, strategize to increase outcomes and solve problems. Through this network, partners gain an increased awareness of local programs and expectations. Partnerships work with other LPAs to share best practices to increase program outcomes and enhance service delivery.

### **What new initiatives have been developed locally?**

In 2004, \$74,000 was made available to LPAs to support partnership, program performance and innovation. Last year, these monies funded nine projects across the state. Among them were workshops for two-parent households, life skills workshops for young parents, and bus rides for rural residents participating in job preparation activities. Information about these projects is available on the WorkFirst Web site.

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WASHINGTON  
**WorkFirst**

### **LPA Partnerships**

Asotin/Garfield Counties  
Benton/Franklin Counties  
Burien/West Seattle  
Chelan/Douglas Counties  
Clark/Skamania County  
Clallam County - Forks  
Clallam County - Port Angeles  
Grant/Adams Counties  
Grays Harbor/Pacific Counties  
King Eastside  
King South  
King North  
Kitsap County  
Klickitat County  
Lewis County  
Lower Columbia  
Mason County  
Okanogan County  
Pierce County  
Port Townsend/East Jefferson County  
Rainier/Capitol Hill/Belltown  
Renton  
Skagit/San Juan Counties and Camano Island  
North Snohomish County  
South Snohomish County  
Spokane/Lincoln Counties  
Thurston County  
Tri-Counties  
Walla Walla/Columbia Counties  
Whatcom County  
Whidbey Island  
Yakima/Kittitas Counties

For more information about the  
WorkFirst program, visit  
[www.workfirst.wa.gov](http://www.workfirst.wa.gov)

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A Better Job,  
A Better Life**



